

CLAIMS

1. A power saving control method for use on a computer
 5 system, comprising the steps of:
 checking an operation state of the computer system;
 switching the computer system from a normal operation mode
 to a first power saving mode when the computer system enters a
 first operation state;
 10 switching the computer system from the normal operation
 mode to a second power saving operation mode when the computer
 system enters a second operation state, said second power saving
 operation mode differing in power saving effect from the first
 power saving operation mode; and
 15 returning the computer system from the first or the second
 power saving operation mode to the normal operation mode
 according to a predetermined return condition.

2. A power saving control method for use on a computer
 20 system, comprising the steps of:
 checking if any timer-expiration-waiting event is present
 in an event queue, which manages event-waiting tasks, when there
 is no executable user task and therefore a CPU has entered an
 idle state;
 25 switching the computer system to a first power saving
 operation mode when there is any timer-expiration-waiting event
 in the event queue, said first power saving operation mode

17

stopping a CPU operation clock while allowing a timer interrupt to be accepted;

switching the computer system to a second power saving operation mode when there is no timer-expiration-waiting event in the event queue, said second power saving operation mode disabling the timer interrupt while stopping the CPU operation clock;

saving the time of a hardware timer when entering the second power saving operation mode;

10 returning the computer system from the first or the second power saving operation mode to a normal operation mode in response to an occurrence of an interrupt; and

15 detecting the time of the hardware timer when the computer system returns from the second power saving operation mode to the normal operation mode, calculating an elapsed time from the saved time, and correcting a timer value of a software timer based on the elapsed time.

20 3. A computer system comprising a CPU having a real-time operating system, wherein

said real-time operating system comprises:

an execution queue that manages a queue of execution waiting tasks;

an event queue that manages event waiting tasks;

25 a power saving transition check module that checks if there is any timer-expiration-waiting event in the event queue when there is no executable user task in the execution queue and

therefore a CPU has entered an idle state and, depending upon whether or not there is any timer-expiration-waiting event in the event queue, switches the computer system from a normal operation mode to a first power saving operation mode or to a
 5 second power saving operation mode that has a power saving effect different from that of the first power saving operation mode; and

a power saving mode release module that returns the computer system from the first or the second power saving
 10 operation mode to the normal operation mode according to a predetermined return condition.

4. The computer system according to claim 3,

wherein, when there is no executable user task and
 15 therefore the CPU has entered the idle state, said power saving transition check module switches the computer system to the first power saving operation mode when there is any timer-expiration-waiting event in the event queue, said first power saving operation mode stopping a CPU operation clock while
 20 allowing a timer interrupt to be accepted,

switches the computer system to the second power saving operation mode when there is no timer-expiration-waiting event in the event queue, said second power saving operation mode disabling the timer interrupt while stopping the CPU operation
 25 clock and, at the same time saves the time of a hardware timer, and

wherein said power saving mode release module returns the

computer system from the first or the second power saving
operation mode to the normal operation mode in response to an
occurrence of an interrupt, detects the time of the hardware
timer, calculates an elapsed time from the saved time, and
5 corrects a timer value of a software timer based on the elapsed
time.

10
15
20
25

5. A recording medium storing thereon a computer readable
program that causes a computer system to:

check if any timer-expiration-waiting event is present in
an event queue, which manages event-waiting tasks, when there is
no executable user task and therefore a CPU has entered an idle
state;

switch the computer system to a first power saving
operation mode when there is any timer-expiration-waiting event
in the event queue , said first power saving operation mode
stopping a CPU operation clock while allowing a timer interrupt
to be accepted;

switch the computer system to a second power saving
operation mode when there is no timer-expiration-waiting event
in the event queue, said second power saving operation mode
disabling the timer interrupt while stopping the CPU operation
clock;

save the time of a hardware timer when entering the second
power saving operation mode;

return a computer system from the first or the second power
saving operation mode to a normal operation mode in response to

an occurrence of an interrupt; and detect the time of the hardware timer, when the computer system returns from the second power saving operation mode to the normal operation mode, calculate an elapsed time from the saved time, and correct a
5 timer value of a software timer based on the elapsed time.

6. A microprocessor having a function of a real-time operating system, wherein

said real-time operating system comprises:

10 an execution queue that manages a queue of execution waiting tasks;

an event queue that manages event waiting tasks;

a power saving transition check module that checks if there
15 is any timer-expiration-waiting event in the event queue when there is no executable user task in the execution queue and therefore a CPU has entered an idle state and, depending upon whether or not there is any timer-expiration-waiting event in the event queue, switches the microprocessor from a normal operation mode to a first power saving operation mode or to a
20 second power saving operation mode that has a power saving effect different from that of the first power saving operation mode; and

a power saving mode release module that returns the computer system from the first or the second power saving
25 operation mode to the normal operation mode according to a predetermined return condition.

7. A computer program that causes a computer system to:
check if any timer-expiration-waiting event is present in an
event queue, which manages event-waiting tasks, when there is no
executable user task and therefore a CPU has entered an idle

5 state;

switch the computer system to a first power saving
operation mode when there is any timer-expiration-waiting event
in the event queue, said first power saving operation mode
stopping a CPU operation clock while allowing a timer interrupt
10 to be accepted;

switch the computer system to a second power saving
operation mode when there is no timer-expiration-waiting event
in the event queue, said second power saving operation mode
disabling the timer interrupt while stopping the CPU operation
15 clock;

save the time of a hardware timer when entering the second
power saving operation mode;

return the computer system from the first or the second
power saving operation mode to a normal operation mode in
20 response to an occurrence of an interrupt; and

detect the time of the hardware timer, when the computer
system returns from the second power saving operation mode to
the normal operation mode, calculate an elapsed time from the
saved time, and correct a timer value of a software timer based
25 on the elapsed time.